have been short listed as priority links for arriving at consensus for preparation of Detailed Projects of these links.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The implementation of these links would depend on how fast the consensus between concerned States is arrived at for preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs.)

Bilateral air traffic rights

*300. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate talks with France, Germany, Hong Kong and China to enhance bilateral air traffic rights to meet growing consumer demand;

(b) if so, whether alongwith the related 'open sky' policy Government will liberalise bilaterals that have been done with the US and UK;

(c) if so, whether talks have already started with the other countries; and

(d) if so, by when, final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Bilateral air services talks have been held with France, Hong Kong and China recently. Bilateral consultation with Germany are yet to be held.

(b) Our air services arrangements with both USA and UK have been liberalized recently. While a liberal open sky type of agreement has been initialled with USA, the existing agreement with UK is not an open sky one.

(c) and (d) Liberalization of international air services is an ongoing process. Bilateral talks are held with various countries to consider their request for enhancement of traffic rights as part of this ongoing process from time to time based on balance of benefit to our carriers, overall interests of national economy and diplomatic considerations.